

that very day. *You told him that Mr. Ickes was in touch with you on it and wanted you to make a decision.*

Secretary Babbitt: Right.

Chairman Thompson: Doesn't all of that imply that you were telling him that there was some concern being expressed to you that a decision be made immediately or that day or forthwith or rapidly?

Secretary Babbitt: Senator, there was no such expression made to me by Mr. Ickes or anyone else.⁷⁹⁴

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Chairman Thompson: And you told Mr. Eckstein that [Ickes] told you to make the decision.

Secretary Babbitt: I did not.

Chairman Thompson: What did you tell him?

Secretary Babbitt: Well, I've repeated that several times. I said I believe – what I believe I've said is that Mr. Ickes expects me or Mr. Ickes wants me to make a decision.⁷⁹⁵

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Sen. Collins: . . . What part isn't true? The "without delay" part?

Secretary Babbitt: I did not tell Mr. Eckstein that Mr. Ickes had instructed me to make a decision.⁷⁹⁶

⁷⁹⁴*Id.* at 243-44 (emphasis added).

⁷⁹⁵*Id.* at 246.

⁷⁹⁶*Id.* at 267. In both his prepared statement and in response to questioning, Babbitt also denied any recollection of having made any remark about campaign contributions to Eckstein:

It has been reported that Mr. Eckstein recently made the additional assertion that I also mentioned campaign contributions from Indian tribes in this context. I have
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